

La Peña

Cultural Center Calendar
3105 Shattuck, Berkeley

January, 1979
849-2568

Peña Film Series: Education & children

Peña Exhibit: Artwork by Children

LUN-MON

MAR-TUES

MIER-WED

JUEV-THUR

VIER-FRI

SAB-SAT

DOM-SUN

7 Peña Concert with Art Landy on piano, playing free improvisations, jazz standards and folk music. Art plays with Rubisa Patrol and records with ECM records. He will be leaving soon for an extended tour of Europe. 8:30 pm, \$2.50

8 Women's Political Images in Art, a slide presentation including paintings, posters, drawings, batiks, cartoons and sculpture from a wide variety of sources including Chicago Women's Graphics Collective, Kathe Kollwitz, Lisa Kokin, Imagean, Nancy Worthington and others. 8:30 pm, \$1.50

9 Peña Film Series Bullets are Beginning to Flower, Mozambique, 1975, a convincing example of self-reliant, multi-racial nation-building in Southern Africa. Army, US, 1969, a look at basic training and the molding of "military machines." ROTC, US, 1969, higher education in service to the military-ind. complex. 8:30 pm, \$2

10 Benefit for the Committee of Solidarity with the People of Nicaragua. Slide show on the developments leading up to the insurrection of September, 1978. Speakers on the current situation in Nicaragua & solidarity work in the exterior. 7:30 pm, \$2 donation

11 Traditional Latin American Dance & Music. Andean music of the panpipes, flutes, tarkas, quenas & drums complemented by dancers from Ballet Folklórico Latinoamericano of Oakland, presented in an environment of slides of murals in the Bay Area. 8 pm, \$2.50

12 Peña Concert Back in the Saddle A very fine bluegrass and country/western band playing original music as well as material from Hank Williams, the Carters, etc. 9 pm, \$2.50

13 Peña Fiesta Sexteto Diablo bringing us more of their hot salsa rhythms. The best salsa band in the entire area. 9:30 pm, \$3
NICH Poster Sale 4-10 pm
3 Japanese Folktales 1 pm

14 Peña Film Showing Shoot the Piano Player, France, 1960. By Francois Truffaut, distinguished by his extraordinary playfulness, an ambitious mixture of comic and serious registers, of strictly ordered and loose compositions related to the double identity of the hero Charlie. 8:30 pm, \$2

15 Peña Forum Health Care in Cuba by the California-Cuba Health Brigade, the highly regarded Cuban health care system, a slide presentation going into depth, making comparisons & finding applications locally. From a recent 3-week intensive study/tour. 8 pm, \$1 donation.

16 Peña Film Series At 8 or 9 in the Morning, Felix Greene's documentary on education's changes in the People's Republic of China. *Childcare*, a composite of several small, community-run childcare groups in NYC. *History of a Battle*, the Bay of Pigs and the Literacy Campaign, two battles at once. 8:30 pm, \$2

17 Benefit for AIM Constantly blending culture, spirit & awareness to make advances against hundreds of years of repression and genocide. 8:30 pm, \$2 donation

18 Education Workshop for Teachers. Approaches to literacy with discussions on film, scripting, radio drama, etc. with Herb Kohl, 3:30-6 pm; *Films made by children* followed by discussion of literacy & politics led by education innovator & activist Herb Kohl. 7:30 pm, \$1 donation

19 Waterfront Writers & Artists, an exciting group of dock workers active in the arts presenting their unique view through poetry, stories & an unusual sound slide show contrasting past & present work on the waterfront. 8:30 pm, \$2.50

20 Peña Concert The San Francisco Taiko Dojo. "Drumming is not looked upon merely as a practice of percussion instruments, but as a discipline of mind & body in the spirit of complete respect & unity among the drummers." 9 pm, \$3

21 Benefit for Geronimo Pratt Defense Comm. featuring the powerful & moving sounds of Marrone, an African/Asian music collective, a filmed interview with Geronimo Pratt & speakers on the FBI's Cointelpro which framed him & many other Black Freedom Fighters. 7:30 pm, \$2.50 donation

22 Open Poetry Reading We are, once again, inviting local poets to read their work and inviting you to listen and participate by reading your own work. 8:30 pm, free. People wishing to read should arrive by 8.

23 Peña Film Series A Child is Waiting A drama about the plight of a mentally retarded boy abandoned by his parents in an institution. Judy Garland is the compassionate music teacher. 8:30 pm, \$2

24 Benefit for News & Letters Committee. Two films: *With Babies & Banners* (7:30 & 10 pm) about an Emergency Brigade in the Flint sit-down strike of 1937, and *Union Maids* (8:30 pm), about three union organizers in the '30s. Discussions follow. \$2 donation

25 Latin American Update, a panel discussion and forum for providing accurate, well informed accounts, in depth, about current political events in Latin America. Panelists come from solidarity organizations & the media with immediate resources to Latin America. 8:30 pm, \$1

26 Peña International A true pena working to create an exchange of cultural and political experiences in our community. An informal evening of music initiated by cultural workers of La Peña. Everybody's participation is welcome. 8:30 pm, \$1 includes a glass of wine.

27 Cajun Festival with the Louisiana Playboys, bringing us what must be the best Cajun music west of the Mississippi. The bayou comes alive! 9:30 pm, \$3

28 Peña Concert An evening with Woody Guthrie, his songs for you and your children. Lenny Anderson singing, Bruce Greene reading his stories and Ed Robbin telling what it was like to know him, and Art Peterson singing for the children. 8:30 pm, \$2

29 Peña Film Showing A Well Spent Life, a strong, beautifully filmed portrait of Mance Lipscomb. *The Blues Accordin' to Lightnin' Hopkins*, "more art, more truth & more musicianship than any music film I've seen"; *The Sun's Gonna Shine*, Lightnin's decision to stop choppin' cotton & sing for a living. 8:30 pm, \$2. Les Blank will be present.

30 Peña Film Series Daily Life in China's Communes, 1974, examining in detail social, cultural & political aspects of life. *The New School*, Cuba, 1973, shows the tremendous growth in school construction as well as the building of a new spirit. 8:30 pm, \$2

31 Benefit for the Chile Newsletter Film: *Border Street*, Poland, 1948, a prize-winning film (Venice, 1948) about the Nazi occupation & people's natural response to repression, to fight; culminating in the 1943 Warsaw uprising. 8:30 pm, \$2

Saturday, January 13
Three Tales from Japan, 1 pm
Comedy for ages 5-10, authentic folktales produced in a style which combines the best of traditional Japanese drama with vaudeville. The performers are sponsored by the drama section of Oakland Parks & Rec. and have been currently touring the Oakland Public Schools. Children \$1, Adults \$1.50.
See back for information about changes in the children's programs.

NICH Poster Sale
Five years of Resistance and Solidarity as documented in posters, will be on display and for sale from 4 to 10 pm. Proceeds will go to furthering the work of NICH.

Mailing the calendar each month has become a massive and very expensive project. We now send out over 7,000 by hand (you'll find us gathered around labeling furiously the 3rd Thursday of every month). We know that many do not get delivered, since the Post Office throws them away if the address is wrong. We **must** update our list to save both energy and money.

We can't do it without your help.

If you want to continue receiving the calendar, please return the bottom part of this calendar making any necessary changes in your address on the other side. If you feel you can afford it, a \$3 donation to help cover the cost of printing and mailing at this time would be greatly appreciated. And for everyone who takes an interest in the work we are doing, please answer the questions and take this opportunity to give us your comments and criticisms to help us evaluate our work.

In Solidarity,
La Peña Cultural Committee

How often do you attend La Peña programs. Which ones?

What do you think of our programming—in terms of diversity, content & relevance?

Would you like to see more bilingual programs?

We would like to offer more in the way of books and records. What would you like to see made available?

Are you interested in finding out more about the current situation in Latin America? The solidarity activities with the Latin American Resistance Movements?

Please feel free to include additional sheets for your comments if you run out of space on this card.

La Peña

cultural center

3105 Shattuck Avenue
Berkeley, California 94705

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Cultural Resistance

Culture is as much a battleground as are the factories or the streets, and becomes a powerful instrument in the hands of the people. During the Allende years, a vigorous popular culture, inspired by the example of Cuba, emerged to confront the commercial culture largely imported from the US. Colorful wall murals and propaganda posters decorated the walls of downtown Santiago. Songs by Victor Jara, and Isabel and Angel Parra, spoke of the struggles of the people to build their country under the new, socialist president. Popular *penas* flourished, where songwriters and musicians came together to share their music and ideas about the new social changes in the country.

With the military coup of 1973, all this changed. The wall murals were whitewashed; the traditional musical instruments of the people were banned; the songs of the people's musicians were forbidden to be sung; and Victor Jara was murdered. The Junta feared the revolutionary artist as much as it feared the armed revolutionary, understanding that culture is an important weapon in the people's arsenal.

Today, the songs of the people are being sung again, slowly emerging from the underground and expressing the dreams of a better society and the struggles of the people's resistance to military oppression. Cultural workers offer themselves as an alternative to the limited bourgeois cultural expressions allowed by the Junta. They provide the people with a weapon, the New Latin American Song, as an authentic expression of the people's aspirations.

If you are interested in finding out more about Cultural Resistance, please phone us or write to us at La Peña.

Waterfront Writers and Artists

This is a group of dock worker-artists who have come to see their collective effort in poetry readings, sound slide presentations and other media as a new and important part of their lives. The effect of working on the docks is evident in the material. The poems, stories and art present an emotional flow between the men as workers and artists. They capture a view of the "working stiff" from firsthand experience as dock workers. This is beautifully depicted in the sound-slide show which contrasts the cameraderie of the past with the mechanized alienation of the present as seen through the eyes of the artist-worker.

The Waterfront Writers and Artists have been well received throughout the Bay Area. Their last presentation was at the downtown branch of the de Young Museum in San Francisco. They have also been on local and national television and radio. Harper and Row is publishing a book of their work, entitled *Waterfront Writers*, which will be available in September 1979.

San Francisco Taiko Dojo



The outstanding feature of the San Francisco Taiko Dojo is that the drumming is not looked upon merely as a practice of percussion instruments, but as a discipline of mind and body in the spirit of complete respect and unity among the drummers. Spirit is the principle upon which applicants are considered for membership in Taiko Dojo. Many an applicant cannot measure up to the established standards. The drop-out rate is

Children's Programs

The Children's Program Committee has been evaluating our work over the past several months, and we've decided to make some changes. A number of the programs we scheduled were not appropriate for the predominantly preschool age children who have been attending the Wednesday programs. So we have decided to develop our own cultural programs for specific age groups and take them into the schools. Some of these will be designed in series and will include workshops in the visual arts. Our first project is to develop a slide show on Latin America accompanied by music and dialogue. We are also about to start working on a new puppet show. We plan to continue scheduling at least one children's program per month in La Pena on Saturdays.

Children & their families in exile

The San Francisco Childcare Project is being formed by a group of Chilean and North American people concerned with the need for quality care of children of refugee families. The situation of these children is unique in that the foundation of their culture has been taken away from them and their parents. On January 5 the Jane Vanini Committee will co-sponsor a program with the participation of a Chilean psychoanalyst who will discuss children in exile.

Bullets Are Beginning to Flower

16mm color, 27 mins. Produced by IKON-Kenmerk (Holland) 1977.

In 1975, after years of fierce guerrilla war against the Portuguese colonial regime, the people of Mozambique finally won their independence. But though the Portuguese were defeated, enemies like illiteracy, ignorance, exploitation, tribalism, racism, the oppression of women are not defeated merely by a declaration of independence. This fascinating Dutch film looks at the transformation of the Mozambican school system since independence. In so doing, it provides a unique glimpse at how the new government is actually implementing its vision of building a new society. "Our schools, our syllabuses, our independence are the fruit of sacrifice of generations of our ancestors. They are the fruit of revolution. To the students we say: we leave in you all our hopes, the hopes of the future of our country."

President Samora Machel

Army

25 mins, b&w. A look at basic training, and the role it plays in molding the young recruits to become "military machines," obeying all orders without thinking.

ROTC

A short exposé of the ties of higher education to the military industrial complex, and how ROTC serves this relationship.

High School

16mm color, 27 mins. Produced by IKON-Kenmerk (Holland) 1977.

A look at the life of teenagers in a high school in a small town in the Midwest. It shows the pressures of growing up, the search for identity, the struggle for self-expression.

Child is Waiting

B&W 102 mins, Judy Garland, Burt Lancaster, Gena Rowlands.

Daily Life in China's Communes

People's Republic of China, 1974. Produced by Gael Dohany. 38 mins, color. English narration. An authoritative and comprehensive look at daily life in China's communes, where the vast majority of China's population lives. The film focuses on communal areas located in Kiangsi, Honan and Hopei provinces, examining in detail the social, cultural and political aspects of life in the communes, including childcare, birth control, housing, education, medical care, local and state planning, and rural forms of proletarian culture.

A Minor Altercation

US 1976. Produced by Jackie Shearer, Terry Sigafoos, Mary Tiseo and Jay Watkins. 30 mins, color.

A Minor Altercation is a film which can play an important and beneficial role. It is a unique film investigation of the racial conflict growing out of the Boston school situation. Produced by a bi-racial crew, the film attempts to get to the roots of the crisis by viewing it from both white and black perspectives. It is an open-ended film which refuses to provide pat answers or easy solutions, aiming instead to stimulate discussion of the issues. The film dramatizes a real-life incident involving a fight between two high school girls—one white, one black—in a dispute over placement in a special course. It then traces in parallel fashion the responses of the two families to the incident, revealing the real feelings underlying racial tension as well as the existence of common interests.

The Sun's Gonna Shine

A lyrical companion piece to *The Blues Accordin' to Lightnin' Hopkins*, this film recreates Lightnin' Hopkins' decision at the age of eight to stop chopin' cotton and sing for his living. It includes a particularly fine version of "Trouble in Mind."

A Well Spent Life

By Les Blank with Skip Gerson, 44 mins.

"With Mance Lipscomb's passing, what was always a strong, beautifully filmed portrait of the man and his music has become a precious document—a love song to beat back the silence of death. *A Well Spent Life* is a deeply moving tribute to the Texas songster, considered by many to be one of the greatest guitarists of all time. Mance was not "discovered" until 1960, when Chris Strachwitz first recorded him for Arhoolie Records. Before that Mance lived by sharecropping, surviving (and more than surviving) the brutality of a system not much better than slavery. Amazingly, instead of growing bitter, the tough times made him sweet."

Shoot the Piano Player

Shoot the Piano Player, Francois Truffaut's second feature film, is particularly ambitious in its mixture of comic and serious registers, of strictly ordered and loose compositions. These are, of course, related to the double identity of the hero Charlie (Charles Aznavour), a pianist in a bistro, who is trying to forget his past as Edouard, a concert musician. The involved and purposely improbable plot includes a flashback to the suicide of Edouard's wife, a collection of gangsters, a murder, and a shoot-out in the snow.

A Child is Waiting

B&W 102 mins, Judy Garland, Burt Lancaster, Gena Rowlands.

This poignant drama about the plight of a mentally retarded boy abandoned by his parents and placed in a state institution stars Judy Garland as a compassionate music teacher at odds with the strict training methods of the school's director (Lancaster). Gena Rowlands appears as the child's erratic mother. Directed by John Cassavetes.

Lord of the Flies

B&W 90 mins. James Aubrey, Tom Chaplin, Hugh Edwards.

This adaptation of Golding's story has been called "one of those rare instances in which the movie is better than the book." *Lord of the Flies* tells of a group of school children who find themselves stranded on a desolate island, the sole survivors of a disastrous airplane crash. Without adult guidance, the children create a primitive social order which quickly deteriorates into a savage anarchic state where brute force leads them to abandon the thin veneer of civilized behavior. 1963, directed by Peter Brook.

Border Street

1948, Polish, b&w, 110 minutes. *Border Street* is considered the best post-WWII Polish film. The film is about the Nazi occupation of the Warsaw ghetto. The film centers on an old tailor who tries to save his daughter and others from the repression. The film culminates with the 1943 Warsaw ghetto uprising where the Jews with the support of the Polish underground take up arms against the Nazis.

Border Street was a prize-winning film at the 1948 Venice Film Festival and was widely acclaimed throughout the world on its release. This deeply humanistic film shows the solidarity between the Jewish and non-Jewish Poles.

Border Street shows that the natural response to brutal repression is to fight. Whether it is the Warsaw ghetto in the 1940s or Chile of the 1970s, common and working people have not submitted to the terror; this film shows their courage against overwhelming odds. Following the film there will be a discussion of the Resistance today in Chile. 8:30, \$2.

The Blues Accordin' to Lightnin' Hopkins

By Les Blank with Skip Gerson, 31 mins.

"There is more art, more truth, more beauty and more musicianship in *The Blues Accordin' to Lightnin' Hopkins* than in any music film I've seen."

—Roger Greenspun, *New York Times*

In his own words and his "own own" music, Lightnin' Hopkins reveals the inspiration for his blues. He sings, jives, ponders. He boogies at an outdoor barbecue and a black rodeo, and takes you with him on a homecoming visit to his boyhood home of Centerville, Texas.

Blank has captured Lightnin' Hopkins' blues in their fullest darkest power. The film reaches "past the impish bluesman himself into the Blues itself, into the red-clay Texas, into hard times, into blackness, into the senses . . . you begin to understand the reasons why black Texas people might be in love with this land and yet angry with the poverty. Country blues is passing away faster than nature herself is disappearing. . . You will not be able to see many films like this before long. . . It's a beautifully made film. See it and feel!"

—Carmen Moore, *The Village Voice*

The New School

Cuba, 1973. Produced by the Cuban Film Institute; directed by Jorge Fraga. 88 mins, color. Spanish dialog with English subtitles.

Cuba's 1961 literacy campaign, which brought thousands of young people into the countryside to teach reading and writing, was the beginning of a process which eventually became one of the key theories on which Cuban education is based. The work-study program initiated by the literacy campaign now plays an important role in the new junior high schools in the countryside.

"A fascinating report on what appears to be an extraordinary project . . . shrewd and effective."

—Vincent Canby, *New York Times*

At 8 or 9 in the Morning

25 mins, color.

This is one of the best films on education we've seen. Every high school kid in the country should see this film. Felix Greene's documentary looks at the many changes in the People's Republic of China in the education system in the last five, six years. It covers a broad field from nursery school to the university.

Childcare

20 mins, b&w.

This film is a beginning point for discussing community child care, a basic need of the people. In showing a composite of several small community-run childcare groups in NYC, we get a glimpse of the ways parents and children both develop new relationships with their peers and each other. It presents the special problems of working mothers and the pitfalls of corporate childcare, but it doesn't examine the government's role or community struggles for decent daycare.

History of a Battle

40 mins, b&w.

In 1961, 100,000 young Cubans went into the countryside to end illiteracy. That same year US-trained mercenaries invaded the Bay of Pigs. The film relates these events as two battles—against illiteracy and against imperialism—in the same war. Cuba is victorious on both fronts.

high, and only one in 20 is able to persevere through the strenuous training. Those members who are totally immersed in perfecting the art of Taiko have added gentleness to the art, mainly by obtaining the spirit of oneness with the audience through the transmission of sound, in other words, the sense of Taiko art is not the skillful manipulation of one's hands but the philosophical challenge of reaching the point of unity of the drummer's spirit and body with the drum.